

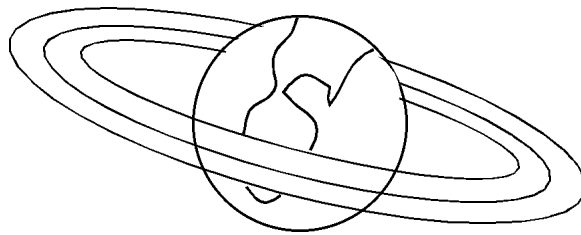
## Saturn's rings

### To discuss ...

- What are Saturn's rings made of..?
  - Chunks of ice. (Some rocks and dust, too, but mostly ice.)  
Some chunks are very small, some are as big as a house.  
*(Scientists are now finding lots of water in outer space – frozen as ice.  
For instance, many comets are full of ice, like giant snowballs.)*
- What caused the rings to form..?
  - No one knows for sure, but scientists have some theories:
    - The rings could be the pieces of a moon that broke apart.
    - The rings could be the remains of a shattered comet that was captured by Saturn's gravity.  
*(The spacecraft that's now in orbit around Saturn, called "Cassini," arrived there in July, 2004, after a journey of seven years. Saturn is almost a billion miles away.)*

### To do ...

- Draw a simple picture of the “Earth with rings” on the blackboard.



- What if the Earth had rings..? How do you think things might be different..?
  - How would the sky look, especially at night..?
  - How might it effect the weather..? (The rings cast a giant shadow.)
  - Could they create any problems for satellites..? The Space Station..?